

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] [[In]] Two problems arise in the host computer accessing data through the network connected to the storage system, [[the two problems of]] a drop in the data transfer rate and an increase in the amount of time necessary for input/output request processing [[arise]]. If the host computer is used as a multimedia streaming server, these problems are particularly serious because the performance of the server is restricted by its ability to retrieve data from the storage system to send the data to the client.

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] In the method disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,463,509, data retrieved from various storage devices through different types of interfaces can be cached in a caching device of a host operating system by changing device [[drives]] drivers and data transfer paths in the host operating system. With this method, high flexibility is achieved, but two serious problems arise. The first is that support from the operating system becomes necessary to process data caching and retrieval from the caching device. The use target operating system must support the hierarchy of the device driver.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] The cache controller preferably includes: a processing unit that caches[[, in the cache storage,]] the data retrieved from the main storage in the cache storage; a processing unit that manages use and allocation of storage regions of the cache storage; a processing unit that manages load and performance information relating to the main storage and the cache storage; a processing unit that determines whether the requested data is cached; and a processing unit that determines, when the requested data is cached, and which of the cache storage and the main storage to use as the storage from which the requested data will be retrieved.

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0037] The data is not cached in cache storage (400) in a case where the data retrieved in step (s104) [[s104]] is already cached (s107) or where the data transfer bandwidth of cache storage interface device (250) exceeds a preset threshold—i.e., when cache storage (400) is overloaded (s108). When the determination is “No” in both steps (s107) and (s108) [[s107 and s108]] (i.e., when the retrieved data is to be cached), cache controller (220) uses cache directory (222) to allocate a storage region in cache storage (400) (s109).

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] The processing conducted in steps (s104) and (s105) [[s104 and s105]] is conducted in parallel with respect to output request reference data partially cached in cache storage (400). However, even if some of the data is already cached in the cache storage, the output request can be completely processed in step (s104) [[104]] in accordance with the information provided by storage interface monitor (221).